



## EPA finds lead high around smelter

Published: Oct. 28, 2009 at 1:42 AM

HERCULANEUM, Mo., Oct. 28 (UPI) -- More than 100 properties near a Missouri smelter that have been through cleanup in the past decade have high levels of lead in the soil, federal regulators say.

Testing by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found lead levels at more than 400 parts per million in 129 properties near the Doe Run Smelter in Herculanum, Mo., the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Of these properties, 104 have had soil remediation.

"While Doe Run has taken some steps in recent years to reduce lead emissions, those efforts clearly fall short of what was necessary," EPA acting Regional Administrator William Rice said in a statement. "The recontamination we are seeing in Herculanum is unacceptable."

Doe Run argued the testing shows the problem is not that severe. Officials said if test results are averaged on each property, only 29 have lead levels above 400 parts per million, the limit the EPA considers safe.

Many of those 29 properties are in a zone where the company has offered buyouts to the owners.

© 2009 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

40324642



Superfund